

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 4, 6 – 11 and 13 – 18 are in the application. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 16, however, have been withdrawn from further consideration at this time. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 14 are amended and Claims 2, 5, 12 and 15 are cancelled.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 2, 5 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the substance of Claims 2 and 5 therein, and Claim 14 has been amended by incorporating the substance of Claim 15 therein.

Claim 5 was objected to because the acronym VSC was undefined in the claims. Claim 1 has been amended in response to this objection by adding such definition.

Claims 1, 2, 5 – 7, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the use in Claims 1 and 14 of the term “electric motor” as a double recitation. As a result, each of Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to make clear that the electric motor being referred to as an electric drive motor. Also, Claim 1, at lines 8 – 12, has been rewritten to avoid a grammatical problem cited by the Examiner. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Finally, the Examiner has objected to drawing Figure, 1 based on the configuration of the engine and planetary gear set. As a result, Figure 1 has been amended to conform with the specification, and a substitute drawing is included in this response.

Applicants respectfully submit that with the proffered amendments of Claims 1 and 14, and the cancellation of Claim 12, this case is now in condition for allowance and each of Claims 1, 7 – 11, 13 – 14, and 17 – 18 should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Dykema Gossett PLLC

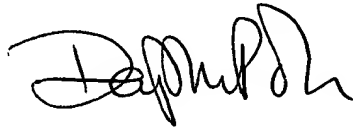
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13 day of April, 2004.



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Daphne Poh